Significant Risk Factors by School Level*

Risk Category and Risk Factor	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Individual Background Characteristics			
Has a learning disability or emotional disturbance		✓	✓
Early Adult Responsibilities			
High number of work hours		✓	√*
• Parenthood			√*
Social Attitudes, Values, & Behavior			
High-risk peer group		√*	✓
High-risk social behavior		√ *	√
Highly socially active outside of school			✓
School Performance			
Low achievement	√*	√*	√*
Retention/over-age for grade	√*	√ *	√*
School Engagement			
Poor attendance	√*	√*	√*
Low educational expectations		√*	√*
Lack of effort		✓	✓
Low commitment to school		✓	√*
No extracurricular participation		✓	√*
School Behavior			
Misbehavior	✓	✓	√*
Early aggression	✓	✓	
Family Background Characteristics			
Low socioeconomic status	√ ∗	√ ∗	√ ∗
High family mobility		√ ∗	
Low education level of parents	✓	✓	√ ∗
Large number of siblings	✓		✓
Not living with both natural parents	✓	✓	√*
Family disruption	✓		
Family Engagement/Commitment to Education			
Low educational expectations		√*	
Sibling has dropped out		✓	✓
Low contact with school		√ ∗	
Lack of conversations about school		√*	√

*Key: \(\sigma \) indicates that the risk factor was found to be significantly related to dropout at this school level in one study. \(\shi \) indicates that the risk factor was found to be significantly related to dropout at this school level in two or more studies.

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